

SPRING FLING WEB EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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MBA Baseball: 2004 Division II State Champs

by CLAY COOPER
Sports Editor, Catcher

For the first time since 1994, your MBA baseball team has won the TSSAA division II State Baseball Championship.

The Big Red defeated a very good Christian Brothers team 7-6 in the finals of the Memphis Spring Fling State Tournament thanks to solid pitching performances by seniors Wylie Jones and Brad French and key hits by Brian Harris, Michael Fisher and others. The Big Red's victory in the finals followed a strong run through the upper bracket of the state tournament that included two victories over Southern Baptist Educational Center and a second round win against the second seed, Baylor.

The team faced SBEC in a hard fought first round match up and, despite the Trojan's solid effort, won 8-7 with senior Scott Pettus starting on the mound, followed by Harris in relief. MBA then faced Baylor and, thanks to a dominating offensive performance and strong pitching from senior French, won 8-5. Baylor fell to SBEC in the losers' bracket to set up a rematch of game one, which saw a more focused and disciplined MBA team win 10-4 behind a complete game outing from freshman pitcher

Todd Miller. With this win the Big Red won the upper bracket and earned a spot in the finals against lower bracket winner CBHS.

Although the game was quite close through the first few innings, being tied at 1-1 and 2-2 at various points, the team began to pull away. Harris' bases-loaded double

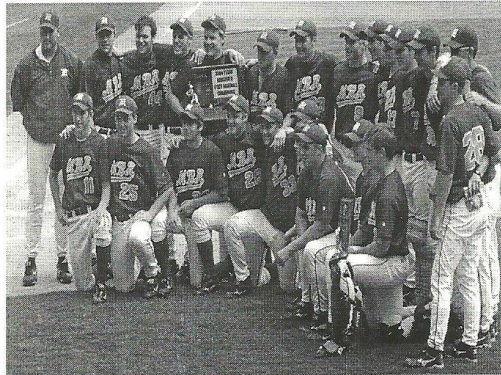
off the top of the left field wall of AutoZone park, home of the minor league Memphis Redbirds, scored three and gave MBA a 6-2 lead that held until the final inning when a run from Fisher held off the Purple Wave's final offensive charge. French's relief pitching allowed only one run, as he ended

the game by striking out John Morgan, stranding the tying run at second base.

With Pettus going 8 for 13 (.615 batting average) and French going 9 for 15 (.600) with a triple, two home runs and 9 runs batted in, the team hit an outstanding .365 for the tournament. Add to this offensive power a 4-0 pitching record and a 3.75 team earned run average, and it is easy to see why MBA came home from Memphis as champions.

This year's State Championship victory came under the veteran leadership of head coach Thomas Wims and the strong assistance of MBA and UT graduate and player Mike Anderson, MBA and Belmont graduate and player Mike Martin, and University of Nevada graduate and minor league pitcher Matt Wells.

A solid core of seniors including Cole Bourland, Michael Fisher, Brad French, Justin Games, Clay Haury, Wylie Jones, Scott Pettus, and Matt Smith provided the leadership on which the Big Red rode to the championship. With Pettus, French, Jones and Games accounting for four of the five positions in the starting pitching rotation, and Fisher, Haury, Smith, and Bourland providing the bulk of the offense that the Big Red lived on, the team will undoubtedly miss the class of '04.



The Baseball team poses for a picture while holding the State Championship trophy.

Track Finishes a Strong Fourth In State Meet

by BROCK BAKER
News Editor

Aided by strong performances in the decathlon, pole vault, and relay events, the MBA track team fought its way to a fourth place finish in the Division II State Track Meet. After two days of competition at Briarcrest in Memphis, the Big Red finished behind Baylor, McCallie, and Brentwood Academy. Having qualified in all four of the relays (4x100, 4x200, 4x400, 4x800 meters) and in every field event except discus and long jump, the Big Red was poised to perform well. Although the Big Red qualified only two individual runners in the open events, MBA showed its depth through its impressive performance in the relays. The 4x100 and 4x200 meter relay teams (Matthew Jacques, Tom Santi, Drew Carney, Wilson Robinson) both finished third, and the 4x400 relay (Jacques, Carney, Robinson, Jeff Snyder) finished second. MBA's only state champions were the members of the 4x800 relay team (Chambliss Shillinglaw, Andrew Pitman, Michael Pierce, Jeff Snyder), which, after gaining the lead during the first leg, never looked back and cruised to a first place finish by five seconds over McCallie in a time of 8:15. The relay could have been run even faster, but after dominating performances in the first three

legs, MBA was so far ahead of the second place team that the anchor, Jeff Snyder, was able to save his energy for the 4x400 relay and jog a time much slower than his MBA school-record best time of 1:55.1.

On a day in which MBA success was dominated by team relay performances, Jeff Snyder stuck out as an individual for his remarkable achievement. He scored in three events (pole vault, 4x400, 4x800), and most notably with his state championship in the 4x800 relay became one of the very few four-time state champions in MBA's history, in any sport. MBA has displayed its distance depth nicely by winning the 4x800 relay each of the last four years, and each of those years Jeff Snyder was an integral member of the state champion relay, running the anchor leg for the last two years. He also holds the school record for the 800 meter run, and the second-best mark ever in pole vault.

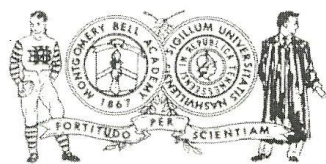
Jeff and all the seniors have been important to this year's track team not only because of their performances on the track (scoring 30.5 out of the 62.5 points the team scored at this year's state meet), but also because of their leadership. With many talented athletes returning next year, MBA will look to improve on this year's fourth place finish in next year's State Meet.



The state champion 4x800 relay team of (left to right) Jeff Snyder, Andrew Pitman, Michael Pierce, and Chambliss Shillinglaw standing on the podium

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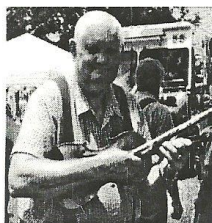
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FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A Bluegrass Concert or the SAT?



Looks like he did well on the SAT

The June 5th SAT at Hillsboro High School was, in one word, a disaster. I know that there were many other MBA students taking the SAT at this time, including both rising Juniors and Seniors. Some were taking the regular SAT, while others, like myself, were taking the SAT II. Before the tests began, the man in charge told us that there would be a festival on the front lawn that might make SOME noise during the test, and that if this was going to be a problem that we should take it at another time. Normally, I don't get distracted during tests; I study while listening to music, watching TV, and talking on AIM. I thought nothing of his warning, assuming that it would just be a small number of people gathered outside, looking at all of the old cars I had seen on my way in. I had finished the Writing SAT II and was about three quarters of the way through my Physics test when all of the sudden I began to hear bluegrass music playing outside of my room. I turned around and looked out the window to see a large gathering of people listening to this band and enjoying the other festivities, which included many large inflatable toys and a miniature train that made an extremely obnoxious ringing sound every so often.

During the Physics test, I never really got used to the noise, and did not finish. In fact, it became so obnoxious that I almost decided to leave after taking Physics, and just take my Mathematics test later.

Instead, I decided to go ahead and take the final test. Of course, during that test, the noise only got worse as more and more people gathered outside. On top of the noise from the outside, someone came over the school intercom system multiple times asking for one thing or another, and at one point a very high pitched beeping sound resonated throughout the building for about ten seconds.

My problem is not so much with the band or even the festival, but rather with the fact that they were scheduled at the same time, on the same day as the SAT. Normally, I am fairly relaxed about events like this, but there is absolutely no excuse for scheduling these two events at the same time. I am sure there are plenty of people who had a much bigger problem with the noise than I did, and I know that had an effect on me. This so-called "Green Hills Historic Homecoming" did nothing except irritate all of the students who were taking the SAT on that day.



The scene at Hillsboro High School as one looked out the window of a classroom while he was taking the SAT.



This train drove around the parking lot and rang a bell—over and over. By the way, don't some of those people look a little old to be riding that thing?



The bluegrass music from this band helped me concentrate while I was taking the Physics and Mathematics SAT II's.

NEWS BRIEFS

Mr. Threaskill finds a new job with construction firm

Mr. Threaskill has recently accepted a job with a nationwide construction company to serve as their diversity director. Unfortunately, he will be leaving MBA this summer to begin his new job. He has been a great influence on both the school and on its students. The Bell Ringer speaks for the entire student body in thanking Mr. Threaskill for his work and devotion to MBA. He has become, in a short period of time, one of the most beloved faculty members on campus. "I am grateful for James' work and devotion to MBA, and I know how difficult it is for him to leave our community. He has expressed on many occasions this last week how much he will miss his friends here and the entire MBA community," says Mr. Gioia. The Bell Ringer and its entire staff would like to thank Mr. Threaskill for everything he has done to help the MBA community. His work, not only as an art teacher, but also as a faculty advisor to the service club, boys and girls club counselor, and guidance counselor, shows his strong character and commitment to the MBA motto. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Whitfield to become Counselor

With the departure of Mr. Threaskill, Mr. Whitfield will become MBA's new Counselor. He will begin his duties in July and will work with Mrs. Warner, who will assume the role of coordinating counseling services. The school hopes that this plan will allow for future enlargement of MBA's counseling services. Additionally, Rosanne Nutkis, mother of sophomore James Nutkis, will begin working in college counseling and will become the office manager for college admissions. Will this change affect the availability of candy in the college counseling office? Only time will tell.

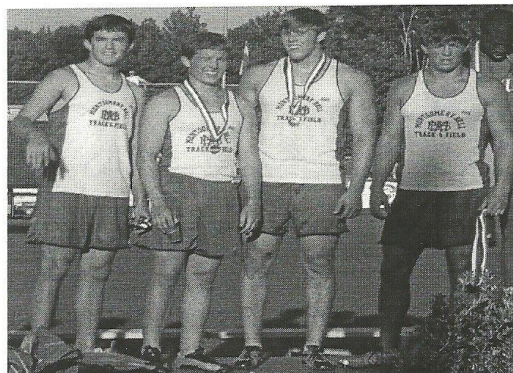
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WHAT YOU WOULD
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(Above) The 4x400 relay team of (from left to right) Matthew Jacques, Drew Carney, Wilson Robinson, and Jeff Snyder finished second with a time of 3:27.69



The 4x200 relay team of (from left to right) Matthew Jacques, Wilson Robinson, Tom Santi, and Drew Carney finished third with a time of 1:31.37. This group also finished third in the 4x100 relay with a time of 43.58



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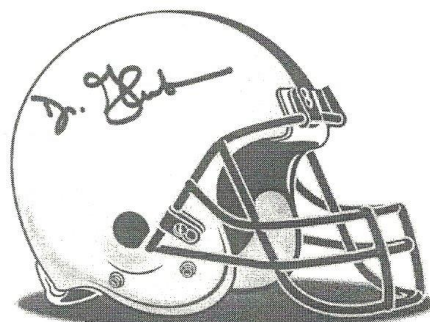
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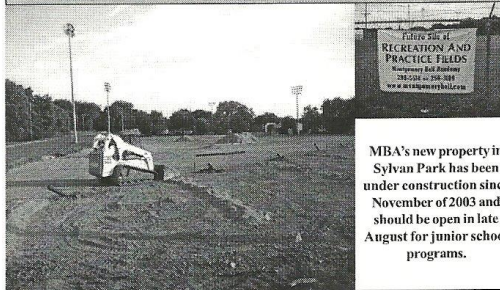


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Results From the State Track Meet

100 Meter Dash:	Tom Santi	7th	11.41
300 Meter Hurdles:	Andy Snyder	3rd	41.03
4x100 Meter Relay:	MBA	3rd	43.58
4x200 Meter Relay:	MBA	3rd	1:31.37
4x400 Meter Relay:	MBA	2nd	3:27.69
4x800 Meter Relay:	MBA	1st	8:15.54
High Jump:	Charlie Plageman	8th	5'8"
Pole Vault:	Jeff Snyder	3rd	14'
	Andy Snyder	7th	13'
Triple Jump:	Charlie Morgan	5th	41' 6 1/2"
Shot Put:	Matt Bubis	7th	47' 8"
	Tom Santi	8th	46' 1"
Decathlon:	Jay Pilkerton	3rd	6292 pts
	Andy Snyder	6th	5637 pts



MBA's new property in Sylvan Park has been under construction since November of 2003 and should be open in late August for junior school programs.

**ALL RISING SENIORS REMEMBER TO
SHOW UP FOR YOUR SENIOR
PICTURES AT YOUR SCHEDULED
TIME ON JUNE 22-24 OR AUGUST 24-25.**

Thoughts on a State Championship

Players, Coaches, and Faculty Respond to the End of Varsity Baseball 2004:

"What stood out most to me is how the team returned from the difficulties we faced early in the season and came together to do well in the end."

-BRAD BOSTON (OF)

"Senior leadership was a big part of the team's dedication throughout the season. It seemed like whenever we were down, the seniors stepped it up and came through. They were there for every practice working hard and getting better, and it was a great example for the rest of the team to follow."

-TEE PATTERSON (P/INF)

"I think the team really came together behind the seniors and focused on one goal: winning state. As the season went on the players on the team seemed to become more comfortable with each other and that helped us play as a team and pick each other up when we needed it most, especially in the State Tournament."

-SCOTT PETTUS (P/OF/DH)

"What stood out to me most was how the team came through and played together, and the chemistry we had as the season went by. With six or seven seniors starting most of the time, we had to set a good example of hustle and effort for the rest of the team and I think that helped us win the State Championship."

-CLAY HAURY (OF)

"I think the coaching is what helped us most this season. All of our coaches knew what they were doing very well, and they've all been doing it for a long time, so the team respected them and it's much easier to play hard and play well when you have respect for your coaches and teammates."

-MATT SMITH (C)

"No other team in the tournament came close to being as together and unified as we were. I know that the way our team developed chemistry and got along together was the biggest part of our success."

-BRAD FRENCH (P/INF)

"This championship represents a great climax to a wonderful senior class. This class showed outstanding athletic ability in winning both the baseball and football state championships. In winning only the fourth baseball state championship in MBA history, the baseball team provided a fitting end to this year and this class."

-Mr. JAMIE TILLMAN

"Throughout the season, we played very well as a team. It took everyone on the team in order for us to be successful from start to finish. We worked hard both conditioning and during on-field practice. This hard work and practice paid off as we continued to improve and peaked at the right time in order to win the State Championship."

-Coach THOMAS WIMS

DON'T FORGET
AUGUST 21, 2004 AT 7PM EST
MBA FOOTBALL @ TRINITY

MBA Baseball 2004 State Tournament and Regular Season Statistical Highlights

STATE TOURNAMENT STATS

Scott Pettus (DH/P) AB-13 H-8 BA-.615 2B-3 RBI-3

-3rd highest batting average in the tournament

Brad French (IF/P) AB-15 H-9 BA-.600 HR-2 RBI-9

-Most RBI and HR in the tournament

-4th highest batting average in the tournament

SEASON STATS

Michael Fisher (CF) BA-.474 HR-4 RBI-29 2B-13 3B-4 SB-6

Clay Haury (RF) BA-.491 HR-1 RBI-30 2B-9

Brad French (IF) BA-.368 HR-3 RBI-20 2B-8

Scott Pettus (DH/P) BA-.492 RBI-16 2B-7

W-3 L-2 ERA-3.71 SO-55



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State Tennis Tournament Results

TEAM RESULTS

QUARTERFINALS

MBA def. Evangelical Christian School (5-0)

SEMIFINALS

MBA def. McCallie (4-0)

FINALS

MUS def. MBA (4-0)

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

SINGLES

Charlie Ramsey (McCallie) def. Ted Iywang (MBA) (1-6, 7-5, 6-3)

DOUBLES

Dale/Nafilan (MBA) def. Lopes/Fancher (CBHS) (6-4, 6-5)

Smith/Lang (MUS) def. Dale/Nafilan (MBA) (7-6 (4), 7-5)

Guyton/Ladyman (MUS) def. Evans/Baker (MBA) (6-1, 6-2)